

The Pre-existence or the pre-living Of Christ (1:1-5)

We find that the Gospel of John was written for a simple purpose. To produce faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God and to share the "life" that comes through such faith. It helps us to have faith in Jesus Christ. John begin in making several claims as to who Jesus was. He refers to Jesus as "the Word". The very first claim is He existed in the beginning, long before being born of Mary.

I. we find Evidence For The Preexistence Of Christ

We find that it was FORETOLD BY THE PROPHETS... Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past. Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7] His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the Lord Almighty will guarantee this! Zech. 2:10-11

The Lord says, "Shout and rejoice, O Jerusalem, for I am coming to live among you. [11] Many nations will join themselves to the Lord on that day, and they, too, will be my people. I will live among you, and you will know that the Lord Almighty sent me to you.

B. AFFIRMED BY JESUS HIMSELF... In His claim to have existed in Abraham's day - JN 8:56-58. In His prayer shortly before His arrest and crucifixion - JN 17:4-5, 24. In the revelation He gave to John - Re 22:13

C. DECLARED BY HIS APOSTLES... By John in his gospel, and also his epistle - JN 1:1-4; 1 JN 2:14. By Paul in his epistles. To the church in Corinth - 1 Co 10:1-4; 2 Co 8:9. To the church in Philippi - Ph 2:5-8. To the church in Colosse - Co 1:16-17

D. ILLUSTRATED BY THE CREATION... All things were created by Jesus - JN 1:3; He 1:2-3. Necessitating His existence before creation - Co 1:16-17. Implying His own eternal power and divine nature - Ro 1:20

[These are remarkable claims concerning Jesus, even blasphemous if not true. Yet if true (and John's gospel is design to prove that it is), consider...]

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST

A. HE IS DEITY...!

1. Especially when we consider the nature of His pre-existence

a. His going forth were "from everlasting" - cf. Mic 5:2

b. He was the eternal "I Am" - JN 8:58; cf. EX 3:13-14

2. As made clear in John's prologue - JN 1:1-2

a. He was "with" God (implying a personal communion with God)

b. He "was" God (explicitly stating His deity)

-- Thus He is worthy of our love and adoration - cf. JN 20:28

B. HE IS LIFE...!

1. By virtue of being the Creator and the Sustainer of life

a. All things were made by Him - Co 1:16

b. All things are held together (NASV, NRSV) by Him - Co 1:17

2. Again, as John makes clear in his prologue - JN 1:3-4

a. Without Him, nothing was made

b. In Him was life itself

-- Thus He gives us hope for our own resurrection! - cf. JN 5:21;

11:25

C. HE IS LIGHT...!

1. We live in a world of darkness...

a. Where people spend their lives stumbling in ignorance

b. Alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance

- cf. EPH 4:17-19
- 2. As the Creator and Sustainer of life itself...
 - a. Jesus is uniquely qualified to bring light into the world
 - JN 1:4
 - b. He calls for us to believe that we might become "sons of light" - JN 12:35-36
- Thus Jesus offers us the "light of life" - JN 8:12

CONCLUSION

1. Sadly, many resist the life and light Jesus offers...
 - a. Some tried to destroy Him, but did not succeed - cf. JN 1:5 (NRSV)
 - b. Many try to avoid Him, knowing that it will mean changes to their lifestyle - cf. JN 3:19-20
2. But for those willing to come to Jesus...
 - a. He offers us hope and guidance in this life - cf. Mic 5:4-5a
 - b. He is capable of fulfilling His promises - cf. Mt 11:28-30

For He is no mere man, whose existence began when born by Mary, but
 "whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." - Mic 5:2

AFTER A FEW OF THE USUAL SUNDAY EVENING HYMNS, THE CHURCH'S PASTOR SLOWLY STOOD UP, WALKED OVER TO THE PULPIT & BEFORE HE GAVE HIS SERMON HE BRIEFLY INTRODUCED A GUEST MINISTER WHO WAS IN THE SERVICE THAT EVENING. IN THE INTRODUCTION, THE PASTOR TOLD THE CONGREGATION THAT THE GUEST MINISTER WAS ONE OF HIS DEAREST CHILDHOOD FRIENDS AND THAT HE WANTED HIM TO HAVE A FEW MOMENTS TO GREET THE CHURCH AND SHARE WHATEVER HE FELT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SERVICE. WITH THAT, AN ELDERLY MAN STEPPED UP TO THE PULPIT AND BEGAN TO SPEAK. "A FATHER, HIS SON, AND A FRIEND OF HIS SON WERE SAILING OFF THE PACIFIC COAST," HE BEGAN. "WHEN A FAST APPROACHING STORM BLOCKED ANY ATTEMPT TO GET BACK TO THE SHORE. THE WAVES WERE SO HIGH, THAT EVEN THOUGH THE FATHER WAS AN EXPERIENCED SAILOR, HE COULD NOT KEEP THE BOAT UPRIGHT AND THE THREE WERE SWEEPED INTO THE OCEAN AS THE BOAT CAPSIZED." THE OLD MAN HESITATED FOR A MOMENT, MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH TWO TEENAGERS WHO WERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE SERVICE BEGAN, LOOKING SOMEWHAT INTERESTED IN HIS STORY. THE AGED MINISTER CONTINUED WITH HIS STORY, "GRABBING A RESCUE LINE, THE FATHER HAD TO MAKE THE MOST EXCRUCIATING DECISION OF HIS LIFE: WHICH BOY WOULD HE THROW THE OTHER END OF THE LIFE LINE. HE ONLY HAD SECONDS TO MAKE THE DECISION. THE FATHER KNEW THAT HIS SON WAS A CHRISTIAN AND HE, ALSO, KNEW THAT HIS SON'S FRIEND WAS NOT. THE AGONY OF HIS DECISION COULD NOT BE MATCHED BY THE TORRENT OF WAVES. AS THE FATHER YELLED OUT, 'I LOVE YOU, SON!' HE THREW OUT THE LIFE LINE TO HIS SON'S FRIEND. BY THE TIME THE FATHER PULLED THE FRIEND BACK TO THE CAPSIZED BOAT, HIS SON HAD DISAPPEARED BENEATH THE RAGING SWELLS INTO THE BLACK OF NIGHT. HIS BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED. BY THIS TIME, THE TWO TEENAGERS WERE SITTING UP STRAIGHT IN THE PEW, ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR THE NEXT WORDS TO COME OUT OF THE OLD MINISTER'S MOUTH. "THE FATHER," HE CONTINUED, "KNEW HIS SON WOULD STEP INTO ETERNITY WITH JESUS AND HE COULD NOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF HIS SON'S FRIEND STEPPING INTO AN ETERNITY WITHOUT JESUS. THEREFORE, HE SACRIFICED HIS SON TO SAVE THE SON'S FRIEND. "HOW GREAT IS THE LOVE OF GOD THAT HE SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR US? OUR HEAVENLY FATHER SACRIFICED HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WE COULD BE SAVED. I URGE YOU TO ACCEPT HIS OFFER TO RESCUE YOU AND TAKE A HOLD OF THE LIFE LINE HE IS THROWING OUT

TO YOU IN THIS SERVICE." WITH THAT, THE OLD MAN TURNED AND SAT BACK DOWN IN HIS CHAIR AS SILENCE FILLED THE ROOM. THE PASTOR AGAIN WALKED SLOWLY TO THE PULPIT AND DELIVERED A BRIEF SERMON WITH AN INVITATION AT THE END. HOWEVER, NO ONE RESPONDED TO THE APPEAL. WITHIN MINUTES AFTER THE SERVICE ENDED, THE TWO TEENAGERS WERE AT THE OLD MAN'S SIDE. "THAT WAS A NICE STORY," STATED ONE OF THEM, "BUT I DON'T THINK IT WAS VERY REALISTIC FOR A FATHER TO GIVE UP HIS ONLY SON'S LIFE IN HOPES THAT THE OTHER BOY WOULD BECOME A CHRISTIAN." "WELL, YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE," THE OLD MAN REPLIED, GLANCING DOWN AT HIS WORN BIBLE. A BIG SMILE BROADENED HIS NARROW FACE. HE ONCE AGAIN LOOKED UP AT THE BOYS AND SAID, "IT SURE ISN'T VERY REALISTIC, IS IT? BUT, I'M STANDING HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU THAT STORY GIVES ME A GLIMPSE OF WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE FOR GOD TO GIVE UP HIS SON FOR ME. YOU SEE, "I WAS THAT FATHER AND YOUR PASTOR IS MY SON'S FRIEND."

Two men went fishing. One man was an experienced fisherman, the other wasn't. Every time the experienced fisherman caught a big fish, he put it in his ice chest to keep it fresh. Whenever the inexperienced fisherman caught a big fish, he threw it back. The experienced fisherman watched this go on all day and finally got tired of seeing this man waste good fish. "Why do you keep throwing back all the big fish you catch?" he asked. The inexperienced fisherman replied, "I only have a small frying pan." Sometimes, like that fisherman, we throw back the big plans, big dreams, big jobs, and big opportunities that God gives us. Our faith is too small. We laugh at that fisherman who didn't figure out that all he needed was a bigger frying pan; yet how ready are we to increase the size of our faith? Whether it's a problem or a possibility, God will never give you anything bigger than you can handle. That means we can confidently walk into anything God brings our way. Philippians 4:13 says that you can do all things through Christ - He'll give you the strength! Nothing is too big for God. Stop telling God you've got big problems, but instead tell your problems to a big God!

BY GOD'S GRACE YOU CAN OVERCOME!

Six Ways to Make People like You by Dale Carnegie

Rule 1: Become genuinely interested in other people.

Rule 2: Smile.

Rule 3: Remember that a person's name is to him or her, the sweetest and most important sound

Rule 4: Be a good listener. Encourage others to talk about themselves.

Rule 5: Talk in terms of the other person's interests.

Rule 6: Make the other person feel important and do it sincerely.

Rose early to seek God and found Him whom my soul loves. Who would not rise early to meet such company? Robert Murray McChesney

You do not see a rainbow on a cloudless, rainless day. You see the rainbow when there are clouds and rain. So the most beautiful and most valuable experiences of your life will not be in the day of the unclouded sky and the serene sunlight, but in the days of adversity and of sorrow and trial. Then God's greatest and most gracious truths proclaim themselves across the firmament of our life. Clarence Macartney

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." William Penn

"Most of the important things in the world have been accompanied by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all." Dale Carnegie

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A MORNING PRAYER

"O, God, for another day, for another morning, for another hour, for another minute, for another chance to live and serve You, I am truly grateful. Do this day free me from all fear of the future, from all anxiety about tomorrow, from all bitterness toward any one, from all

cowardice in face of danger, from all laziness in the face of work, from all failure before opportunity, from all weakness when your power is at hand? But fill me with Love that knows no barrier, with Sympathy that reaches to all, with Courage that cannot be shaken, with Faith strong enough for the darkness, with Strength sufficient for my tasks, with Loyalty to Your Kingdom's goal, with Wisdom to meet life's complexities, with Power to lift me to You. Be with me for another day, and use me as You will. For Christ's sake, I pray. Amen."

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."
Aristotle

God's Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes, Which God gave me to hold. He said, 'Put all your sorrows in the black box, And all your joys in the gold.' I heeded His words, and in the two boxes, Both my joys and sorrows I stored, But though the gold became heavier each day, The black was as light as before. With curiosity, I opened the black, I wanted to find out why, And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole, Which my sorrows had fallen out by. I showed the hole to God, and mused, 'I wonder where my sorrows could be!' He smiled a gentle smile and said, 'My child, they're all here with me.'

I asked God, why He gave me the boxes, Why the gold and the black with the hole? 'My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings, The black is for you to let go.' We should consider all of our friends a blessing. Send this to a friend today just to let them know you are thinking of them and that they are a joy in your life. A ball is a circle, no beginning, no end. It keeps us together like our Circle of Friends. But the treasure inside for you to see, Is the treasure of friendship you've granted to me.

Let me suggest five practical guidelines for cultivating the right kind of servant habits.

Whatever we do, let's do more with others. Ministry is not a solo, it's a chorus. Whenever we do it, let's place the emphasis on quality, not quantity. Excellence, not expansion, is our goal. Whenever we go to do it, let's do it the same as if we were doing it among those who know us the best. Not only will this keep us accountable, it'll guard us from exaggeration. Whoever may respond, let's keep a level head. If someone criticizes, don't allow it to get you down. If someone idolizes, don't tolerate or fantasize such foolishness. However long we minister, let's model the Master a servant hearted and a grace-oriented style. Let's serve in the name of

JESUS. From Day to Day with Charles Swindoll.

The Twenty and the One:

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean." "Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?" The one-dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church." The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

"Every evening, write down the six most important things that you must do the next day. Then while you sleep, your subconscious will work on the best ways for you to accomplish them. Your next day will go much more smoothly." Tom Hopkins

"The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it."
John Ruskin

(1) You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great. (2) The first two letters in the word goal, are GO. (3) Some people dream of worthy accomplishments, others wake up and do them. (4) Anybody who brags about what they're going to do tomorrow probably did the same thing yesterday. (5) You will never be what you ought to be until you're doing what you ought to be doing. (6) If you're having trouble thinking outside the box, you're probably in the wrong box. Get out of there!

In Heaven, you have a high priest that not only speaks in your behalf to the Heavenly Father, but He knows just how you feel and what you are going through. He was tempted just like we are. Now Jesus might not have faced the same situation that you do, but He has faced the same types of temptations that you have faced.

Have you been tempted to worry? So has Jesus. Have you been tempted to give up? So has Jesus. Have you been tempted to steal? So has Jesus. Have you been tempted to be dishonest? So has Jesus. Have you been tempted to be lazy? So has Jesus? Have you been tempted to lose your temper? So has Jesus?

What's the difference between your temptation and that of Jesus? Jesus was tempted and never sinned. We have been tempted and often succumbed to sin. Because Jesus is alive now and sitting at the right hand of God, You are encouraged to "come boldly before the throne of grace to find grace to help in time of need."

So, when you worry, come to Jesus. When you want to quit, come to Jesus. When you are tempted to do wrong, come to Jesus. He is there for us. When we don't know which way to turn because problems seem so great, come to Jesus!

Author: Warren Wiersbe Romans 12:17-21 Psalm 34:17-22

It was Abraham Lincoln who said, "The strength of a nation lies in the homes of its people." I am more convinced than ever that the homes of our nation contain the ingredients for a spiritual and moral awakening in our country. The smallest yet most powerful unit for spiritual awakening and social change family. Your family!

I know who I am.

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3: 12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Corinthians 3: 16)

I am complete in Christ (Colossians 2: 10)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

I have been justified (Romans 5:1)

I am God's co-worker (1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1).

I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Philippians 1: 5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven (Colossians 1:14).

I belong to God! Do you know who you are?

Eight Reasons Why I Believe That Jesus Rose from the Dead

by John Piper

1. Jesus himself testified to his coming resurrection from the dead. Jesus spoke openly about what would happen to him: crucifixion and then resurrection from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31; see also [Matthew 17:22](#); [Luke 9:22](#)). Those who consider the resurrection of Christ unbelievable will probably say that Jesus was deluded or (more likely) that the early church put these statements in his mouth to make him teach the falsehood that they themselves conceived. But those who read the Gospels and come to the considered conviction that the one who speaks so compellingly through these witnesses is not the figment of foolish imagination will be unsatisfied with this effort to explain away Jesus' own testimony to his resurrection from the dead. This is especially true in view of the fact that the words which predict the resurrection are not only the simple straightforward words quoted above, but also the very oblique and indirect words which are far less likely to be the simple invention of deluded disciples. For example, two separate witnesses testify in two very different ways to Jesus' statement during his lifetime that if his enemies destroyed the temple (of his body), he would build it again in three days ([John 2:19](#); [Mark 14:58](#); cf. [Matthew 26:61](#)). He also spoke illusively of the "sign of Jonah" -- three days in the heart of the earth ([Matthew 12:39](#); [16:4](#)). And he hinted at it again in Matthew 21:42 -- "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner." On top of his own witness to the coming resurrection, his accusers said that this was part of Jesus' claim: "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise'" (Matthew 27:63). Our first evidence of the resurrection, therefore, is that Jesus himself spoke of it. The breadth and nature of the sayings make it unlikely that a deluded church made these up. And the character of Jesus himself, revealed in these witnesses, has not been judged by most people to be a lunatic or a deceiver.

2. The tomb was empty on Easter. The earliest documents claim this: "When they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus" (Luke 24:3). And the enemies of Jesus confirmed it by claiming that the disciples had stolen the body ([Matthew 28:13](#)). The dead body of Jesus could not be found. There are four possible ways to account for this. 2.1 His foes stole the body. If they did (and they never claimed to have done so), they surely would have produced the body to stop the successful spread of the Christian faith in the very city where the crucifixion occurred. But they could not produce it. 2.2 His friends stole the body. This was an early rumor ([Matthew 28:11-15](#)). Is it probable? Could they have overcome the guards at the tomb? More important, would they have begun to preach with such authority that Jesus was raised, knowing that he was not? Would they have risked their lives and accepted beatings for something they knew was a fraud? 2.3 Jesus was not dead, but only unconscious when they laid him in the tomb. He awoke, removed the stone, overcame the soldiers, and vanished from history after a few meetings with his disciples in which he convinced them he was risen from the dead. Even the foes of Jesus did not try this line. He was obviously dead. The Romans saw to that. The stone could not be moved by one man from within who had just been stabbed in the side by a spear and spent six hours nailed to a cross. 2.4 God raised Jesus from the dead. This is what he said would happen. It is what the disciples said did happen. But as long as there is a remote possibility of explaining the resurrection naturalistically, modern people say

we should not jump to a supernatural explanation. Is this reasonable? I don't think so. Of course, we don't want to be gullible. But neither do we want to reject the truth just because it's strange. We need to be aware that our commitments at this point are much affected by our preferences -- either for the state of affairs that would arise from the truth of the resurrection, or for the state of affairs that would arise from the falsehood of the resurrection. If the message of Jesus has opened you to the reality of God and the need of forgiveness, for example, then anti-supernatural dogma might lose its power over your mind. Could it be that this openness is not prejudice for the resurrection, but freedom from prejudice against it?

3. The disciples were almost immediately transformed from men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion ([Luke 24:21](#), [John 20:19](#)) into men who were confident and bold witnesses of the resurrection ([Acts 2:24](#), [3:15](#), [4:2](#)). Their explanation of this change was that they had seen the risen Christ and had been authorized to be his witnesses ([Acts 2:32](#)). The most popular competing explanation is that their confidence was owing to hallucinations.

There are numerous problems with such a notion. The disciples were not gullible, but level-headed skeptics both before and after the resurrection ([Mark 9:32](#), [Luke 24:11](#), [John 20:8-9, 25](#)). Moreover, is the deep and noble teaching of those who witnessed the risen Christ the stuff of which hallucinations are made? What about Paul's great letter to the Romans? I personally find it hard to think of this giant intellect and deeply transparent soul as deluded or deceptive, and he claimed to have seen the risen Christ.

4. Paul claimed that, not only had he seen the risen Christ, but that 500 others had seen him also, and many were still alive when he made this public claim. "Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:6). What makes this so relevant is that this was written to Greeks who were skeptical of such claims when many of these witnesses were still alive. So it was a risky claim if it could be disproved by a little firsthand research.

5. The sheer existence of a thriving, empire-conquering early Christian church supports the truth of the resurrection claim. The church spread on the power of the testimony that Jesus was raised from the dead and that God had thus made him both Lord and Christ ([Acts 2:36](#)). The Lordship of Christ over all nations is based on his victory over death. This is the message that spread all over the world. Its power to cross cultures and create one new people of God was a strong testimony of its truth.

6. The Apostle Paul's conversion supports the truth of the resurrection. He argues to a partially unsympathetic audience in Galatians 1:11-17 that his gospel comes from the risen Jesus Christ, not from men. His argument is that before his Damascus Road experience when he saw the risen Jesus, he was violently opposed to the Christian faith (Acts 9:1). But now, to everyone's astonishment, he is risking his life for the gospel (Acts 9:24-25). His explanation: The risen Jesus appeared to him and authorized him to spearhead the Gentile mission (Acts 26:15-18). Can we credit such a testimony? This leads to the next argument.

7. The New Testament witnesses do not bear the stamp of dupes or deceivers. How do you credit a witness? How do you decide whether to believe a person's testimony? The decision to give credence to a person's testimony is not the same as completing a mathematical equation. The certainty is of a different kind, yet can be just as firm (I trust my wife's testimony that she is faithful). When a witness is dead, we can base our judgment of him only on the content of his writings and the testimonies of others about him. How do Peter and John and Matthew and Paul stack up? In my judgment (and at this point we can live authentically only by our own judgment--Luke 12:57), these men's writings do not read like the works of gullible, easily deceived or deceiving men. Their insights into human nature are profound. Their personal commitment is sober and carefully stated. Their teachings are coherent and do not look like the invention of unstable men. The moral and spiritual standard is high. And the lives of these men are totally devoted to the truth and to the honor of God.

8. There is a self-authenticating glory in the gospel of Christ's death and resurrection as narrated by the biblical witnesses. The New Testament teaches that God sent the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.... He will glorify me" (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit does not do this by telling us that Jesus rose from the dead. He does it by opening our eyes to see the self-authenticating glory of Christ in the narrative of his life and death and resurrection. He enables us to see Jesus as he really was, so that he is irresistibly true and beautiful. The apostle stated the problem of our blindness and the solution like this: "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.... For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4, 6). A saving knowledge of Christ crucified and risen is not the mere result of right reasoning about historical facts. It is the result of spiritual illumination to see those facts for what they really are: a revelation of the truth and glory of God in the face of Christ -- who is the same yesterday today and forever.

Pastor John